IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of the claims, and replaces all earlier version and listings.

1. (currently amended): A server capable of communicating with a device, comprising:

a first ~~management means for managing~~ storage unit adapted to store information representing an ability of ~~said~~ the device;

a second ~~management means for managing~~ storage unit adapted to store information representing an ability of a device driver for the device;

a retrieval condition reception ~~means for receiving~~ unit adapted to receive a retrieval condition for selecting the device;

~~retrieval means for retrieving the device based on the information managed by said first management means, the information managed by said second management means and the retrieval condition received by said retrieval condition reception means; and~~

~~output means for outputting a retrieval result obtained by said retrieval means~~

a comparing unit adapted to compare the retrieval condition received by said retrieval condition reception unit with combined information, the combined information being a combination of the information stored by said first storage unit and the information stored by said second storage unit; and

an output unit adapted to output a comparing result obtained by said comparing unit.

2. (currently amended): A server according to claim 1, further comprising:

a first reception ~~means for receiving~~ unit adapted to receive the information representing the ability of the device; and

a second reception ~~means for receiving~~ unit adapted to receive the information representing the ability of the device driver for the device.

3. (currently amended): A server according to claim 1, further comprising a generation ~~means for generating~~ unit adapted to generate the combined information by ~~coupling~~ combining the information ~~managed~~ stored by said first ~~management means~~ storage unit and the information ~~managed~~ stored by said second ~~management means~~ storage unit together.

4. (currently amended): A server according to claim 3, further comprising ~~registration means for registering~~ a third storage unit adapted to store the combined information generated by said generation ~~means to a storage~~ unit.

5. (currently amended): A server according to claim 4, ~~further comprising comparison means for comparing~~ wherein said comparing unit compares the combined information ~~registered~~ stored by said ~~registration means~~ third storage unit with the retrieval condition.

6. (currently amended): A server according to claim 1, wherein the retrieval condition includes plural conditions,

wherein said ~~retrieval means~~ comparing unit compares the information ~~managed~~ stored by said first ~~management means,~~ storage unit and the information ~~managed~~ stored by said second ~~management means and~~ storage unit with each condition included in the retrieval condition ~~with others~~, and

wherein said output [[means]] unit outputs an adaptivity based on the number of adapted conditions among the plural conditions included in the retrieval condition.

7. (previously presented): A server according to claim 1, wherein the information representing the ability of the device is information concerning any one of duplex print, N-up print, jobcopy, pagecopy, OHP insertion print, resolution, the number of print pages, a paper size, and a status of the device.

8. (currently amended): A server according to claim 1, wherein the ~~retrieval~~ comparing by said ~~retrieval means~~ comparing unit is performed with respect to plural devices.

9. - 20. (cancelled.)

21. (currently amended): An information processing method which is executed by a server capable of communicating with a device, comprising the steps of:

~~managing~~ storing first information representing an ability of the device;

~~managing~~ storing second information representing ability of a device driver for the device;

receiving a retrieval condition for selecting the device;

~~retrieving the device based on the first and second information and the received retrieval condition; and~~

~~outputting a retrieval result of said retrieving step~~

comparing the retrieval condition received in said retrieving step with combined information, the combined information being a combination of the first information and the second information; and

outputting a comparing result obtained in said comparing step.

22. (currently amended): A method according to claim 21, further comprising the steps of:

receiving the first information representing the ability of the device; and

receiving the second information representing the ability of the device driver for the device.

23. (currently amended): A method according to claim 21, further comprising the step of generating the combined information by ~~coupling~~ combining the first and the second information together.

24. (currently amended): A method according to claim 23, further comprising the step of storing ~~registering~~ the combined information generated in said generating step in a storage unit.

25. (currently amended): A method according to claim 24, ~~further comprising~~ wherein said comparing step includes comparing the combined information ~~registered in said registering step~~ with the retrieval condition.

26. (currently amended): A method according to claim 21, wherein the retrieval condition includes plural conditions,

wherein, in said comparing step ~~of retrieving~~, the first information[[,]] and the second information ~~and~~ are compared with each condition included in the retrieval condition ~~are compared with others~~, and

wherein [[in]] said outputting step includes outputting an adaptivity based on the number of adapted conditions among the plural conditions included in the retrieval condition.

27. (currently amended): A method according to claim 21, wherein the first information representing the ability of the device is information concerning any one of duplex print, N-up print, jobcopy, pagecopy, OHP insertion print, resolution, the number of print pages, a paper size, and a status of the device.

28. (currently amended): A method according to claim 21, wherein the ~~retrieval by~~ comparing in said ~~retrieval~~ comparing step is performed with respect to plural devices.

29. - 40. (canceled)

41. (currently amended): An information processing program, stored in a computer-readable storage medium, and which is executed by a server capable of communicating with a device, wherein said program ~~allows~~ causes a computer to execute:

a first ~~managing~~ storing step of ~~managing~~ storing first information representing an ability of ~~said~~ the device;

a second ~~managing~~ storing step of ~~managing~~ storing second information representing an ability of a device driver for the device;

a receiving step of receiving a retrieval condition for selecting the device;

~~a retrieving step of retrieving the device based on the first and second information and the received retrieval condition; and~~

~~an outputting step of outputting a retrieval result of said retrieving step~~

a comparing step of comparing the retrieval condition received in said retrieving step with combined information, the combined information being a combination of the first information and the second information; and

an outputting step of outputting a comparing result obtained in said comparing step.

42. (currently amended): A program according to claim 41, wherein said program ~~allows~~ causes the computer to execute:

receiving the first information representing the ability of the device; and

receiving the second information representing the ability of the device driver for the device.

43. (currently amended): A program according to claim 41, wherein said program ~~allows~~ causes the computer to execute a step of generating the combined information by ~~coupling~~ combining the first information and the second information together.

44. (currently amended): A program according to claim 43, further comprising ~~registering~~ storing the combined information generated in said generating step in a storage unit.

45. (currently amended): A program according to claim 44, ~~further comprising~~ wherein said comparing step includes comparing the combined information ~~registered in said registering step~~ with the retrieval condition.

46. (currently amended): A program according to claim 41, wherein the retrieval condition includes plural conditions,

wherein said retrieving step includes comparing the first information[[,]] and the second information ~~and~~ with each condition included in the retrieval condition ~~with others~~, and

wherein said outputting step includes outputting an adaptivity based on the number of adapted conditions among the plural conditions included in the retrieval condition.

47. (currently amended): A program according to claim 41, wherein the first information representing the ability of the device is information concerning any one of

duplex print, N-up print, jobcopy, pagecopy, OHP insertion print, resolution, the number of print pages, a paper size, and a status of the device.

48. (currently amended): A program according to claim 41, wherein the ~~retrieval by~~ comparing in said ~~retrieval~~ comparing step is performed with respect to plural devices.

49. -73. (canceled).

74. (currently amended): A server according to claim 1, wherein said output [[means]] unit outputs the ~~retrieval~~ comparing result in a form for discriminating the function executable by the device driver, as the result of the ~~retrieval~~ comparing by said ~~retrieval means~~ comparing unit.

75. (canceled).

76. (currently amended): A method according to claim 21, wherein said retrieving step includes retrieving the device for which at least one of the ability of ~~said~~ the device and the ability of the device driver satisfies the retrieval condition.

77. (currently amended): A method according to claim 21, wherein said outputting step includes outputting the ~~retrieval~~ comparing result in a form for discriminating the function executable by the device driver, as the result of the ~~retrieval~~ comparing in said ~~retrieval~~ comparing step.

78. (currently amended): A program according to claim 41, wherein said retrieving step includes retrieving the device for which at least one of the ability of ~~said~~ the device and the ability of the device driver satisfies the retrieval condition.

79. (currently amended): A program according to claim 41, wherein said outputting step includes outputting the ~~retrieval~~ comparing result in a form for discriminating the function executable by the device driver, as the result of the ~~retrieval~~ comparing in said ~~retrieval~~ comparing step.